

The Liberal Government of Saskatchewan seems to think no more of looting the Patriotic Fund than it does of allowing thousands of dollars to be filched from the public treasury through inefficiency and culpable negligence of administration.

Bradshaw
Papers



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THE PATRIOTIC TAX

MONEY COLLECTED BY THE ASSESSMENT
OF ONE MILL ON THE DOLLAR GOES
TO PAY FAT SALARIES TO FAVORED
CIVIL SERVANTS WHO HAVE ENLISTED
AND THE WAGES OF SPECIAL WATCH-
MEN ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS WHILE

The Patriotic Fund Suffers



Is No Public Trust Sacred?

*No Public Money Safe from the Hands
of these Political Highwaymen?*

**Salaries of Special Watchmen for the
Protection of Public Buildings - \$19,727**

Salaries to Dependents of Civil Servants - 44,423

The above two items appear in the Public Accounts of 1915-1916 as expenditures under the Patriotic Aids Tax.

During the same period it was necessary to supplement the revenue derived from the assessment of one mill on the dollar for Patriotic Aids by appeals to generous citizens.

It is evident, therefore, that the voluntary gifts of liberal-minded citizens of this province paid indirectly for the salaries of special watchmen for public buildings and for allowances to dependents of civil servants.

Or, in other words, the gifts of generous men and women in Saskatchewan were necessary to meet the demands of the patriotic fund because part of the income from the Patriotic Aids Act was used to pay salaries for special watchmen for public buildings and for allowances to the dependents of civil servants.

The money derived from the assessment of one mill on the dollar was diverted by the Saskatchewan government into improper channels.

SOME OF THE FORTUNATES

With regard to the allowances to the dependents of Civil Servants the same thing occurred during the fiscal year of 1916-1917 which is just closing, for by a return brought down in the Legislature on February 13, it is clear that a further sum of some \$90,000 was taken from the Patriotic Tax Aids and handed over as a gift to the Civil Servants.

And the generosity of the citizens was again taxed for the payment of these allowances.

An examination of the amounts which these Civil Servants were drawing before enlistment and the amounts which were paid to their dependents discloses the following items:

	Salary	Annual Rate of Allowances
A. L. Geddes, Law Officer	\$1,800	\$1,200
J. A. Sterling, Field Agent	1,200	1,200
H. Hornsey, Auditor	1,300	1,200
K. N. Stone, Clerk	720	720
A. Nuttall, Chemist	1,600	720
J. C. Smith, Live Stock Commissioner	2,000	1,280
A. H. Ball, Deputy Minister	3,200	2,440
A. L. Buck, Clerk	720	720
J. Firth, Clerk	720	720
J. Liddell, Clerk	900	810
C. E. Jeffreys, Draughtsman	780	720
G. W. Williams, Draughtsman	960	845
R. N. Flock, Inspector	1,200	1,200
R. H. Matthews, Inspector	1,400	1,200
F. Collins, Caretaker	720	720
C. G. Parkyn, Inspector	1,500	1,200
M. Ross, Landscape Architect	3,000	1,920
G. Hornsey, Clerk	1,500	1,200
J. Sutherland, Superintendent	3,500	2,655
A. Wright, Clerk	960	865
J. R. Brand, Clerk	900	810
C. L. Hunt, Clerk	1,440	1,200
J. Sullivan, Clerk	780	720
G. S. Bryson, Painter	780	720
A. W. Robinson, Deputy Registrar	1,650	1,280
G. A. Edwards, Clerk	900	810
L. N. Milward, Clerk	840	756
C. V. Truscott, Registrar	2,200	1,840
J. W. Horton, Clerk	780	720
J. Wilson, Clerk	780	720
F. E. Sissons, Clerk	960	864
A. C. Garner, Chief Surveyor	3,000	1,800
T. C. Atkinson, Clerk	960	864
R. J. Townsend, Assistant Deputy Registrar	1,240	1,200
R. C. Burlingham, Local Registrar	1,850	1,200
W. R. Gordon, Sheriff	2,050	1,300
W. S. Ellis, Sheriff	2,050	1,200
L. D. Clarke, Court Reporter	1,200	1,200
R. Charlton, Local Registrar	2,400	2,040
P. Shelton, Court Reporter	1,800	1,640
A. B. Cook, Sheriff	4,000	2,920
M. Wilkinson, Deputy Sheriff	2,400	2,040
E. M. Jacques, Police	1,200	1,200
H. E. Townsend, Police	1,200	1,200

In inserting the names of those who have benefited by the action of the Government, no reflection is meant to be cast upon them. It is the method of the Government in diverting the revenues of the Patriotic Tax into foreign channels that is to be condemned.

It will be seen from the above statement that Messrs. Sterling, Stone, Buck, Firth, Flock, Collins, Clarke, Jacques and Townsend get as much salary for their dependents as if they were still in the service, while others get only a few dollars less in addition to their pay and allowances from the militia.

The amounts paid to the dependents of Civil Servants for the fiscal year 1915-1916, according to the returns published in the Public Accounts was \$44,423.74.

Among the payments that make up this sum are the following:

	Annual Rate of Allowances	Salary
J. F. Sutherland	\$3,500	\$3,500
A. C. Garner	2,850	3,000
C. E. Jeffreys	952	780
F. E. Sissons	952	960
J. R. Brand	825	900
N. C. Turnour	1,030	Not Stated
S. M. Matthews	1,383	Not Stated
M. N. Ross	2,910	3,000

The way in which the revenue from the Patriotic Aids tax has been diverted into foreign channels and has been manipulated by the Liberal Government of this province has roused strong expressions of protest and disapproval throughout Saskatchewan and in other provinces where the facts have been given considerable prominence.

ACTION AROUSED COMMENT

Under the title of "Saskatchewan Civil Servants Honor Roll" Jack Canuck, a weekly publication published in Toronto, prints the following:

"A return to the Saskatchewan Legislature showing the list of government employees who have enlisted for Overseas service, the amount of salary paid to each employee and the salaries or allowances paid to their dependents, gives some food for thought.

The return shows an inconceivable discrimination in the payment of the allowances, some drawing as much salary as they did before the war while many others get nothing at all and that the big fellows, the friends of the Government get the fat emoluments. The list contains the names of 163 men and of that number 103 receive no pay for allowances from the Government. The remaining sixty include such people as A. H. Ball, deputy minister, who is allowed \$203.33 a month; A. B. Cook, sheriff, who is allowed \$243.33. A few clerks here and there get from \$60 to \$67 a month, and a superintendent gets \$229 a month. The differences between the allowances gives the impression that some officials had to be bribed to go to the front or rather to get into khaki."

Of the total amount of one million dollars raised by the patriotic tax \$700,000 was transferred to the Patriotic Fund, while the other patriotic works to which the balance of the revenue was devoted included the headquarters organization work of the Canadian Patriotic Fund, the headquarters organization of the Military Hospitals Commission and the allowances to dependents of civil servants. Strong objection was taken to such payments being made from this tax and the treasurer of one branch of the Patriotic Fund wrote to the Provincial Treasurer for an explanation. Mr. Dunning's reply was, in part, as follows:

"Civil Servants in the employ of the Saskatchewan Government just the same as civil servants in the employ of any other British Government are considered to be entitled to an allowance for their dependents when they enlist for overseas service, and a scale of payments was therefore arranged at the commencement of the war. . . . The Patriotic Aids act enabled the province to borrow moneys on the credit of the Province for patriotic purposes and to generally assist the Empire in the conduct of the war. . . . It was thought advisable to transfer the charge on Patriotic Aids of the payments to dependents of civil servants in order that the same might be a specific charge against the Patriotic tax instead of being a charge against the general revenue of the Province and a part of the Public Debt. No one would suggest I am sure that the Saskatchewan Government should refuse to do what British governments everywhere have done and if these dependents are paid, the money must come from the people of the province. On the other hand, suppose the Government did decide not to pay the dependents of civil servants anything, these dependents would become a charge upon the Patriotic Fund, and thus the money would be expended anyway, and would have to come from the people."

ADMITS THE DIVERSION OF FUNDS

In this letter, the Provincial Treasurer admits that the Patriotic Aids tax revenues have been used for payments of allowances to civil servants. If employees of the Government are entitled to have these allowances paid out of the Patriotic Aids tax then the employees of cities, towns and municipalities should receive the same treatment, as they are just as much the servants of the people. Would the Provincial Treasurer admit that allowances paid to civic officials might be made from this tax and on the same generous scale? Mr. Dunning says that other British Provinces are paying allowances to civil servants, in the same way, but he has no authority for such a statement. If a scale has been arranged as Mr. Dunning suggests how does it come that, for example Mr. J. F. Sutherland, an employee of the Telephone Department, receives in allowances exactly the same sum as his total salary for the preceding year, that is, \$3,500. This is not an isolated case, for several employees receive the same treatment while others get only a portion of their salaries.

AN ERRONEOUS STATEMENT

Mr. Dunning is wrong when he says that if A. H. Ball and A. B. Cook did not receive these large sums out of Patriotic Aids tax that they would receive the same sums out of Patriotic Fund for both men are officers, and as such would receive no sum for their dependents out of the Patriotic Fund. Certainly no man is receiving such a large sum as \$243.33 per month out of the Patriotic Fund.

There is another matter also that requires some explanation. When the Patriotic Fund was organized, the Provincial Government made it known throughout the province that the salary of T. M. Bee and his assistants would be paid for by the Provincial Government and would not come out of the Patriotic Fund. Yet by charging the Patriotic Aid tax revenues with over \$10,000 for Red Cross headoffice organization, the Patriotic Fund is being looted of that amount for every penny paid out for "other purposes" and means so much less from the Patriotic Aids tax for the Patriotic Fund, and therefore so much more for generous citizens to have to pay from their own pockets.

When the Government give \$130,000 in two years as allowances to the dependents of civil servants and take it from the revenue derived from the Patriotic Aids tax they directly rob the Patriotic Fund, and make it necessary for the citizens to pay out an equal amount, so that the Patriotic Fund shall not go short. In other words the salaries of these civil servants is being drawn directly from the purses of generous citizens, many of whom have had to make no small sacrifice to keep up their payments.